United Nations E/C.19/2009/10

# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2009

Original: English

**Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**
**Eighth session**
New York, 18-29 May 2009
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
**Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:**
**(a) economic and social development; (b) indigenous women;**
**(c) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People**

## Reports received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

### Note by the secretariat

*Summary*

The summaries of the reports submitted by 11 entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations are included in the present note as part of the overall reports received by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The complete reports are available on the Permanent Forum website (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_eighth.html).

* E/C.19/2009/1.

09-25771 (E) 250309

# I. Introduction

1. As at 4 March 2009, written submissions to the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had been received from 17 United Nations and other intergovernmental entities, namely the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Department of Public Information, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Department of Political Affairs.

2. In accordance with the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum, reports by agencies have been taken into account in the analysis papers prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum under item 3, "Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum".[1] The reports of the six agencies that will be considered under item 6, "Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds", have been issued as documents of the session.[2] The present note contains a summary of the contributions by other agencies that are not taking part in the dialogue under item 6. The full text of these contributions has been posted on the website of the Permanent Forum.

# II. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean[3]

3. ECLAC reported on its progress towards the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Permanent Forum in 2008. Main activities in this regard have focused on the disaggregation by ethnicity in data sources to better reflect the situation of indigenous peoples; the conduct of studies about indigenous peoples' rights and living conditions, in particular the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous women; and the provision of technical advisory support to States for the introduction and analysis of information on indigenous peoples in their national statistics systems. ECLAC has also carried out technical studies on policy recommendations and has organized international seminars and training workshops on the use of statistical information.

[1] E/C.19/2009/7; E/C.10/2009/8; E/C.19/2009/9.

[2] E/C.19/2009/3 and Add.1-6.

[3] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/ECLAC_report_8th_session_es.pdf.

## III. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity[4]

4. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity remains committed to the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in all meetings of relevance to them through the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and through local community participation in meetings held under the Convention. The parties to the Convention have also recognized the importance of the participation of indigenous and local communities in meetings on access and benefit-sharing, article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention.

5. The secretariat of the Convention continues to cooperate with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, as well as with other relevant organizations and indigenous women's groups to ensure that their perspectives and strategies are taken into account in the work on traditional knowledge and that capacity-building efforts target indigenous women.

6. A unique opportunity also exists for highlighting the important contributions made by indigenous and local communities to the International Year of Biological Diversity, in 2010. As part of the International Year, alternative means to disseminate public information on traditional knowledge[5] will be developed, including uncomplicated and diverse community-friendly media, such as video, television, audio for community radio, songs, posters, theatre/drama and film. This is designed to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, including women and youth, at the local, national and international levels, while also helping indigenous and local communities to develop their own media tools.

7. It has been noted that it is unclear as to whether some of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum are addressed to the parties or to the secretariat of the Convention. It would be helpful if it could be clarified whether the process relating to the recommendations to the parties is different from that applied to the secretariat of the Convention.

## IV. United Nations Institute for Training and Research[6]

8. Since 2000, UNITAR has been providing training on negotiation techniques and on mediation to representatives of indigenous peoples through its programme on peacemaking and conflict prevention. The training programme was developed in response to requests by indigenous peoples and following the recommendations of United Nations special rapporteurs who requested advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation for indigenous peoples.

9. UNITAR training programmes focus on strengthening negotiation skills that would allow indigenous peoples to negotiate effectively in development processes and other issues that affect their communities, as well as to engage in dialogue regarding their priorities. Since conflict over land and resources and marginalization from political and economic processes are among the many challenges that

[4] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SCBD_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[5] Global Initiative on Biological Diversity Public Education and Public Awareness on CEPA and the clearing-house mechanism.

[6] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UNITAR_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

indigenous peoples face, most case studies and negotiation simulations in the training focus particularly on these issues. The training programme reviews both rights-based and problem-solving negotiation processes to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to analyse root causes of conflict and engage in constructive dialogue with Governments, the private sector and other communities in order to resolve conflict in a mutually beneficial and sustainable manner. UNITAR actively seeks the participation and contribution of indigenous women in each training programme, both as resource persons and as participants.

## V. International Organization for Migration[7]

10. IOM is cooperating with indigenous peoples, Governments and partner organizations to develop and implement culturally appropriate projects that respond to the particular needs of indigenous peoples. IOM has an established presence in nearly every country with more than 300 field offices globally. In Asia, IOM co-chairs, with ESCAP, the United Nations regional thematic working group on international migration, including human trafficking. In Latin America, IOM is working in partnership with indigenous peoples' organizations, relevant civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and Governments on various projects, including the development of guidelines to assist indigenous victims of trafficking and the issuance of publications on different migration topics.

11. IOM also works in partnership with United Nations agencies on projects in border areas that focus on indigenous peoples. A programme on integrated municipal development includes the building of productive and social infrastructure projects aimed at improving the health and human development of migrant indigenous workers. Programmes to increase awareness on avian and human influenza also focus on indigenous peoples living in border areas. In 2008, IOM collaborated with USAID, UNHCR and the Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation (Acción Social) on the project entitled "Legal protection of internally displaced persons and their property in Colombia", which places a special emphasis on the protection of indigenous peoples' territories.

## VI. Department of Public Information[8]

12. The Department of Public Information has assisted with the promotion of events and has made information materials (written, audio-visual and online) available on issues such as urban migration, climate change, indigenous women and youth, languages, lands, territories, natural resources and reconciliation between indigenous peoples and States. Materials used include fact sheets, brochures, radio and television features and news interviews.

13. The Department has also assisted with the promotion of events and has produced information materials (written, audio-visual and online) related to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, including the printing of a poster designed by an indigenous artist to commemorate the Decade, which was distributed worldwide through the Department's offices. The Department

[7] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/IOM_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[8] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DPI_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

also produced a booklet containing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the World's Indigenous Peoples. In addition, the Department has field offices in all seven Permanent Forum regions, where activities have included the translation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the sponsoring of events related to the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

## VII. Department of Political Affairs[9]

14. The Department of Political Affairs has identified the coordination and exchange of information with other parts of the United Nations system working on indigenous issues as central to its analytical work. The Americas Division has established the practice of meeting regularly with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. The Department is also planning to meet with members of the Permanent Forum during the eighth session.

15. Throughout 2008 and early 2009, the Department of Political Affairs addressed indigenous issues in a number of ways, including support for the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bolivia, who represented the United Nations during the referendum on the new Bolivian Constitution on 25 January 2009. The Department's Americas Division also participated in a workshop on "Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights: Rights to Lands and Territories", held in Buenos Aires, from 5 to 7 December 2008. In addition, the Electoral Assistance Office of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) provided support to the Electoral Commission of Nepal in various areas, in particular legal advice on the electoral law, including the suggestion of quotas to ensure the representation of women and minorities, which required the political parties to nominate minority candidates from certain communities in the party list proportional to their number in the census. UNMIN also assisted in the development of nomination and selection procedures to enable political parties to meet the required quotas. This resulted in the highest number of marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, ever represented in an elected body in Nepal. In 2009 the Department nominated a focal point on indigenous issues.

## VIII. World Food Programme[10]

16. While WFP does not have specific programmes for indigenous peoples, unless it is dealing with food security issues, several of its programmes have included indigenous peoples because of their food security status. In October 2008, WFP was part of an inter-agency group that organized a seminar on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for South American countries. In 2007 and 2008, WFP projects reached over 220,000 indigenous peoples in Peru (75 per cent of total beneficiaries) and 570,000 in Bolivia (80 per cent of total beneficiaries). During 2009, WFP will be involved in a series of information-sharing meetings with indigenous peoples.

[9] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DPA_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[10] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/WFP_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

## IX. United Nations Human Settlements Programme[11]

17. UN-Habitat reported on one of its main tasks, namely addressing indigenous peoples and urban indigenous issues. In March 2007, the Government of Canada sponsored an expert group meeting on urban indigenous peoples and migration in Santiago. This meeting, convened by UN-Habitat and OHCHR, was jointly organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the Latin America and the Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE/ECLAC) with the support of IOM. The overall goal of the expert group meeting was to contribute to improving the living conditions of urban indigenous peoples and the realization of their human rights. The report of the expert group meeting was submitted to the sixth session of the Permanent Forum, and a publication containing a full account of the meeting is available on the websites of UN-HABITAT and other participating organizations.[12]

18. As a direct follow-up to the expert group meeting and as requested by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, UN-Habitat and OHCHR, under the United Nations Housing Rights Programme and through the Inter-Agency Support Group, are coordinating the elaboration of policy guidelines for Governments and local authorities to assist in the development of public policies related to the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in cities.[13] The proposed policy guides relate to the issues of employment and local economic development, education, health, transition/settlement services, cultural and linguistic continuity, identities, ethnic mobility, human security (particularly for indigenous women and youth) and housing.

19. At its seventh session, the Permanent Forum recommended that urban indigenous issues be given important consideration at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Nanjing, China, in November 2008, and welcomed the policy guidelines initiative. The draft policy guidelines on indigenous peoples' housing was introduced and discussed at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum. A further meeting on the status of the policy guidelines on urban indigenous peoples' issues will be held in a parallel session to the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference, in Ottawa, in March 2009.

## X. United Nations Development Fund for Women[14]

20. UNIFEM has a dual mandate: to provide innovative and catalytic programming and financial support to countries in order to achieve gender equality in line with their national priorities and to strengthen action on gender equality across the United Nations development cooperation system.[15]

21. Integrating the rights of indigenous women is fundamental to UNIFEM, and the development of projects and programmes that respond to indigenous women's issues is a priority in its agenda. UNIFEM has been working to advance indigenous

[11] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UN-HABITAT_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[12] "Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration: Report and full account of the International Expert Group Meeting, 27-29 March 2007, Santiago, Chile" can be downloaded from the website of the Permanent Forum, http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/, or from www.unhabitat.org/unhrp.

[13] E/C.19/2008/6, para. 28.

[14] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UNIFEM_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[15] General Assembly resolution 39/125.

women's rights by means of existing internal processes and innovative initiatives among indigenous communities. The approach of UNIFEM includes four primary areas of work: (a) working to combat violence against women in indigenous communities (for example, consciousness-raising on violence against women among community leaders in Bolivia and Ecuador implementing informal indigenous justice systems); (b) supporting the participation of indigenous women in decision-making (for example, during the constituent assembly process in Ecuador, UNIFEM supported a proposal by an alliance of indigenous women to improve indigenous women's access to justice); (c) ensuring indigenous women's access to justice (for example, support to three pilot initiatives to improve indigenous women's access to justice); and (d) strengthening indigenous women's organizations to work for a common agenda and influence decision-making and public policy. For example, as part of its endeavour to strengthen indigenous women's organizations, UNIFEM supported the participation of indigenous women at the Internal Forum of Indigenous Women, held in Lima in April 2008, which was attended by more than 250 indigenous women from 20 Latin American countries.

## XI. International Labour Organization[16]

22. ILO has reported on a number of projects and programmes addressing indigenous issues as well as on its ongoing work to support the implementation of Convention No. 169. ILO has worked towards the inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights in poverty reduction strategy papers through capacity-building and national-level programmes. Through its programme to promote ILO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples, ILO has addressed the development of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples and has produced and disseminated a series of studies and publications on the implementation of Convention No. 169. Capacity-building constitutes another key element of the programme, and during 2008, training activities were organized at national, regional and headquarters levels. In terms of national level efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples, ILO reported on initiatives in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia and Nepal.

## XII. Inter-American Development Bank[17]

23. IADB is guided by its two main strategies — namely, the strategy for sustainable economic growth and the strategy for poverty reduction and promotion of social equity — in its work with 26 Latin American countries to help overcome the challenges they face in their national development processes.

24. In 2008, IADB launched a long-term indigenous entrepreneurship programme and a study was carried out in nine countries in Latin America on the topic of indigenous peoples and business. The study concluded that the development potential of indigenous peoples is constrained due to a situation of exclusion and lack of financial services. It was recommended that the Bank provide Governments with adequate social, cultural and economic schemes. A further study was conducted

[16] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/ILO_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[17] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/IDB_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

on land privatization, titling and indigenous peoples in Latin America, focusing in Peru, Bolivia, Honduras and Mexico, and it was recommended that IADB should review the paradigms and schemes of indigenous common land privatization.

25. IADB, through its programme for the support of women's leadership and representation with a targeted focus on indigenous women, has supported programmes on capacity-building and indigenous women's leadership in Latin American countries. In Panama, IADB is supporting rural electricity programmes for Comarca Kuna Yala communities with a focus on social, cultural and gender perspectives.